

#### ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method of inhibiting cell death in a mammal. The method comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of a composition comprising a cell protection factor covalently linked to a bone targeting agent via a linkage that is cleaved under physiological conditions, whereby the cell protection factor is released from the bone targeting agent *in vivo* to inhibit cell death. The invention further provides a compound comprising a cell protection factor covalently attached to a bone targeting agent via a linker that is cleaved under physiological conditions.